Thos. A. Shel[illegible].
~~[illegible]~~ 1835

Peekskill N.Y. March 23. 1835

Dr Newton & Slavery – Minister at Poughkeepsie

Dear Wife

12

I came to this place as I expected. Yesterday was a very stormy day & to day it is quite cold, & being afflicted with a severe cold I have kept as much within doors & talked as little as I well could. I have been looking over John Newton's life, letters &c to day, & I reccommend them to your perusal. Really it would seem as though he pushed the Slave-trade with more religion than I do the abolition of slavery – at least with more of a certain kind of religion. Really I have been shocked, at the pious whine, with which, after his eyes were opened, he detailed his religious experience while engaged in that hellish traffic. And then his wife too – she could reconcile herself most piously to his absence & say in regard to it, "the Lord's will be done", & then he could compliment her & bless God for such a "heavenly temper" &c!! My soul is sick – sick – sick – when I see Christianity thus dishonored & disgraced.

Po'keepsie Mar. 28. 1835.

And so, here I am, safe & sound, my cold much improved, so that I shall be able to preach to morrow, I think, without inconvenience. I have just received a line from Farmington saying that my last arrangement will go into effect. So that you can now go about corresponding arrangements at Wrentham. The house at Farmington will therefore be put into a condition to accommodate you a part or all of the summer. And my present purpose, if I can well effect it, is to go hence to Albany & thence across to Boston, & then see to packing & forwarding our goods, to Wrentham & Farmington. It is not certain that I shall be able to do this. I shall be able to tell after I have been at Albany. They are expecting you at New York at the Anniversaries. I think you had better make your calculations to go, Birney, Weld, & Thompson will probably all be there.

And now, for Po'keepsie, I am here, preach tomorrow in the Presbyterian chh in the morning, in the Methodist in t afternoon & probably in the Baptist, Rev Mr Burroughs!! in the evening. And what does all this mean, you say? What Burroughs is this? Yes, it is, the very same, what staid with us, some week or two just before we left Boston. Yes, as true as you live, Rev Mr Burroughs, Pastor of the Baptist church, in Po'keepsie, the largest village between N. York & Albany, containing a population of seven or eight thousand! What strange things will happen!

And, dont be surprised at all this - for I must confess, that all the other ministers here, save & except the Methodist, seem to be part & parcel of the same material. O my heart bleeds, when I look at such a village, the heart of one of the richest counties in N York, with such a ministry - One a tobacco-smoking, tobacco-chewing, jolly, dutchman - Another a dandy-walking-stick-how-do-you-do-Miss-sort of a body - Another a high-chh Episcopalian - & a fourth the said Rev. Mr. B—! O how I should love to drive the devil out of such a village & make conquest of it for God. I must confess that my heart does at times fail me, & nothing but t promise of God sustains me when I look forward to scan the future destinies of this nation.

I shall go from this to Albany, & shall hope to hear from you there. It seems a great while since I have heard from you & I assure you it will be quite a treat to hear from you & that dear little boy again. You will therefore write me on the receipt of this & direct to Albany. If you can reserve some twenty or thirty dollars of that I sent you, for travelling expenses, I think you had better. However I leave that for you to decide. A kiss to my dear boy. & remember me to all friends.

Your affecte husband
Amos A Phelps.

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Mrs Charlotte Phelps

Wrentham

Mass.

POUGHKEEPSIE N.Y.
MAR
28

Amos A. Phelps.
~~April 4th~~ 1835
March 28th
Poughkeepsie (N.Y.)